

## IS READY FOR STATEHOOD.

The Opinions of Prominent Salt Lake People.

## NO REASON FOR DELAY.

The People Have the Value of the Liberty of Statehood.

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Utah is ready for statehood. It is her birthright and the number of her inhabitants and the intelligence of her people, her position and resources entitle her to every privilege and liberty and right due to a free people. She is entitled to statehood because she has outgrown that relic of colonial bondage under which petty underlings have ruled over and judged her inhabitants without their consent.

Utah is ready for statehood because her people are loyal, brave and independent, and though in the past mistrusted and thrust into bondage, now wears the signet ring of conscious sovereign power, yet to shine as the brightest gem in the galaxy of national statehood.

Utah is ready for statehood because her people have no further use for the absolute veto of the one-man power, nor for commissioners to gerrymander her districts and supervise her elections.

Utah is ready for statehood because she demands representation, being willing and able to submit to taxation. Her grand old mountains, with their ribs of iron, hoards of silver and veins of gold, are ready for statehood. Her happy unencumbered homes, farms and fields are ready for statehood. Her flocks and herds upon a thousand hills, are ready for statehood. Her mills and factories, her merchants and bankers, are ready for statehood. Her schools, academies, colleges and universities are ready for statehood. Her students, professors and statesmen are ready for statehood. The brain and brawn and heart of her people are ready for statehood. Her honor, integrity and truth; her purity, virtue and health, the courage of her boys, the beauty of her girls, the devotion of her mothers, the manhood of her fathers, all proclaim that Utah is ready for statehood.

Division on national party lines has brought harmony out of confusion and fraternal feeling out of bitter discords. The hundreds of the past are buried; we have become homogeneous, the church does not dominate the state, the state does not trench upon the rights of the church. With her feet planted firmly upon the constitution and laws the "bride" awaits the groom. Utah is ready for statehood.

MONSIEUR THATCHER.

Yes; why? The territorial form of government as part of our system is temporary in character, established to maintain order and to aid young and weak communities in their early struggle to acquire and develop strength for the maintenance of free and independent states. It was never contemplated as a permanent government and to a people under territorial rule requires the admission of a territory to the union of states, so soon as it has an intelligent and patriotic population sufficiently numerous and stable in character, with developed resources and accumulated wealth, to successfully conduct all of its own domestic affairs and contribute its due share to the administration of the general government. It cannot be truthfully denied that all of the ends of territorial government for Utah have been attained and that the territory today has every requisite for admission.

The permanent settlement of Utah began with the incoming of the Mormon pioneers in 1847, nearly forty-six years ago, and from that time until now there has been a steady growth in population, active development of resources, large accumulation of wealth and the establishment of the manifold industries and enterprises, public and private, charitable and educational, which give life and character to the state and prosperity and happiness to its people.

The federal census of 1890 gives to the territory a population of 207,905 and it has an area of 34,790 square miles. Its assessed valuation of property for 1891,

exclusive of mines not taxed, was \$121,143,948.37. The incorporated cities and towns having an assessable valuation of \$89,364,881.27. We have more than one thousand miles of railroad, three thousand miles of irrigating canals, and from ten to fifteen thousand miles of wagon road. The prescribed limits to this article precludes the statistics in detail which show that all the various and diversified occupations that furnish employment and a means of livelihood to the citizens of our common country thrive and flourish in Utah, viz: Agricultural and stock raising, mining and smelting, manufacturing, merchandising, banking, etc., and that any energetic and industrious population following their chosen avocations secure a rich return for their enterprise and labor.

Certain of our citizens, while conceding that we have the necessary number of inhabitants of stable habits and character, ample wealth and development, and every material resource to assume the responsibilities of statehood, yet content it would be unsafe to admit Utah into the union because a majority of its citizens are members of and communicants of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They urge that in times past the church taught and practiced polygamy in defiance of law. That it ruled its membership with an absolute veto; claimed and exercised the right to dictate to and control their action in all temporal matters as well as in spiritual affairs. In a word, they claim that the causes of contention which divided the Mormon and non-Mormon people for so many years still exist. In support of their claim, they continually recur to the past. They ignore the brightness and promise of the present and with gloomy forebodings darken the future. We invite all to a contemplation of the truth.

The authorities of the Mormon church in the most solemn manner have authoritatively forbidden the practice of polygamy and have been sustained by the Mormon people in their action. It is now an offense against the church which subjects the offender to excommunication to enter into or practice polygamy. The civil authorities of the church from the reformation by publication over their signatures have disclaimed all right or desire to interfere or control in any manner the political action of the people. The Peoples' or church party, under the old constitution, composed almost entirely of the Mormon people, has been formally dissolved by its authorities. The Mormon people, including many holding high church positions, have allied themselves with and are active participants in the Democratic and Republican parties. It is here as elsewhere in the country that those of the same religious conviction find themselves opposed to each other in political belief and action.

Is Utah ready for statehood? was answered affirmatively by the unanimous vote of the Democratic members of the committee on territories of the present House of representatives. After a full and fair hearing upon the home rule bill, the Democratic and Republican parties in convention have declared for statehood. The struggles and triumphs of the past in reclaiming the desert, opening the mines, building cities and towns, and the establishment of permanent and prosperous communities proclaim the readiness of the territory for admission to the union of states.

Utah with her great population and vast interests is not only ready for, but needs two United States senators and representation in the lower house of Congress. With past animosities forever buried, more than two hundred thousand souls with a common interest and destiny await the deserved boon of statehood.

CALEB W. WEST.

Utah is ready for statehood. She possesses all the essential qualifications. This is a fact recognized nationally. It was declared in a report by the House committee on territories of the Fifty-second Congress in the following terms: "Your committee is thoroughly satisfied of Utah's entire qualification for admission to the Union with all the powers of full statehood."

She has a population of nearly a quarter of a million; her wealth is equal to \$200,000,000; but 5 per cent. of her people are illiterate; her citizens are renowned for their industry, frugality and honesty; they are not only familiar with the constitution of our country and the laws enacted under it, but they acknowledge the supremacy of the law and yield obedience to it.

Her territory is conceded to be the home of a typical American people, endowed with the energy and possessing the enterprise which have made her beautiful mountainous country the habitation of industry, refinement and wealth.

In my judgment there has been for years no constitutional reason for withholding statehood from Utah. But there have been objections which have proved more potent than all the constitutional requirements, and these have received such ready belief that all appeals have hitherto been ineffectual. Will it be contended that these objections still remain? Not even the hardest opponent of self-

government for Utah will say that conditions have not changed, while a large percentage of the men of influence and character, who formerly opposed admission to the Union are today foremost in contending that there no longer remains any valid reason for withholding the great boon that statehood will give to this territory.

It does not seem possible that any person who has had to meet the dictation of a governor possessing the absolute veto power, which has time and again been exercised to nullify the proper and legitimate desires of the people, or who has felt the humiliation of having elections conducted by an imported commission, a body of men wholly irresponsible to the people, can discover a reason that will justify honest and intelligent opposition to self government.

To a people that have suffered through irresponsible tyranny the promise of statehood is filled to the brim with all that liberty loving hearts hold dear and sacred in the name of freedom. That we should keep steadily before us the high destiny which it implies seems to me as necessary as that we should believe in the needfulness of truth and the necessity of right.

By bitter experience and the tears of decades the people of Utah have learned

community within itself the means of protecting each citizen in his inalienable rights of life, liberty and property?

Applied to Utah, these questions must be answered in the affirmative, and local self-government is a matter of right. To deny the existence of this right is to deny the equality of the rights of man; to withhold it as a matter of discretion is an act of unwarranted tyranny.

If by "un-Americanism" you mean that the people of Utah have not in your estimation the right ideas as to the functions or duties of citizens in a republic, and that this is an objection to statehood, then I reply that your objection is unworthy the consideration of broad-gauged statesmen. Your objection is a denial of the equality of man before the law, and is the establishment of a governing class, whom you give the power to withhold that right from others. To say that a man shall have no voice in government only because he has, or does not have, a particular mental conviction is to muzzle truth, to shut out progress, to embrace tyranny. You cannot indict a whole community as "un-American."

The people of Utah, individually and collectively, are better qualified to assume the responsibility and perform the duties of self government than the people of most new states.



DELEGATE-ELECT JOSEPH L. RAWLINS.

the value of that higher liberty which statehood signifies, and if, after all that has been endured, we are still unprepared for admission to the union, when may we hope to possess the requisite qualifications?

P. S. RICHARDS.

It seems needless to multiply statistics to prove that Utah has the intelligence, the wealth, the population and the diversity of resources which entitle her people to statehood.

I therefore proceed to the objections to Utah's admission. The first objection, viz: that the population of Utah is "un-American" is to say the least, very unsatisfactorily indefinite. If by this beautifully vague word, "un-American," you mean that a large part of Utah's population are only naturalized citizens and that this is an objection to statehood, then I pray you why do you not ask that, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other northern states, or even New York City, be expelled from the Union. I insist that the right of local self-government in any community cannot be made to depend upon the accident of its inhabitants' birthplace. The right of participation in the affairs of the government under which a man makes his home is one inherent in man and not belonging to points of compass, or to climate.

When the people of any territory apply for admission into the Union, three questions, and only three, should be asked, viz: Have the people the intelligence to appreciate the liberty which belongs to them? Second—Have they the morality to prevent the wanton abuse of the liberty they demand? And third—Has the

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